

Dear Whitney Point Community,

Spring is upon us and I am sure you join me in looking forward to some warm weather, the return of the robins and the first signs of daffodils!

Spring brings great excitement to the school community and this year we were pleased to host the community musical - "South Pacific!"

I would like to thank the community for their support in the recent bus vote. Replacing buses in our fleet allows us to maximize our resources while providing a safe environment for our students. This year we purchased slightly used buses to help contain costs. Two of the buses are fueled by cost-saving and clean-burning propane.

I have been working closely with the Board of Education developing the 2013-2104 school district budget. We have set three goals to guide us in the budget development process:

1. Develop a REASONABLE TAX LEVY INCREASE
2. Maintain FOCUS ON EDUCATION
3. Build a SUSTAINABLE budget

I have confidence you will see the impact these goals have on the 2013-2014 budget. I hope you will join us at our Budget Hearing on May 7 and come out to vote on May 21.

As the year begins to wind down, classrooms in our elementary, intermediate, and middle schools are preparing for the Grades 3-8 New York State Exams. The State Education Department has created a new set of tests based on the Common Core Curriculum. They recently sent out a memo asking us to inform our community that these tests are not like others offered in the past and that we should expect the rigor and content to be more reflective of the new "college and career" ready Regents Reform Agenda goals. As they work to realign the tests, they are predicting a 20-40 percent state-wide decrease in the number of students meeting proficiency. Although I am confident that our students are making the academic gains necessary to be successful in life, due to the state's predictions, we may see a parallel decline on our students' levels of performance. As in the past, we will work to realign our curriculum to ensure our students meet these new mandates.

I hope to see you at one of our many concerts, school celebrations or athletic events. I wish you the best in this spring season and as my Irish grandmother used to say, "May the road rise up to meet you, may the wind be ever at your back, and may the sun shine warm upon your face."

Sincerely,

*Patricia Follette*

Superintendent

